GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1763
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Stock Limits
Nimmala Shri Kristappa

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 has a provision for imposing stock holding limits on various agricultural products;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has relaxed/ exempted certain agricultural products from the said stock holding limits under the Act in the recent past;
(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for granting such relaxation/ exemption; and
(e) the impact thereof on domestic retail prices of such items during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d) : Yes Madam. Under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955, at present stock limits can be imposed on Pulses, Edible Oil, Edible Oilseeds and Onion only. Except these commodities all other agricultural products are exempted from stock limits. Except in Maharashatra State, for importers, there is no relaxation in stock limits.

(e) : The stock limits on a commodity help in containing prices of the commodity by empowering States/Union Territories to carry out anti hoarding operations to enhance supply in the Market.
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